**For 5020 District Newsletter**

Teacher Mini-Grants 2024-2025

Back in 2014-15(?), our club started what we called a “Success Chest” which was created to help elementary school teachers pay for classroom materials, often for students who couldn’t afford them.

Up to that time things like paper, pencils, folders, etc. were being paid for by the teachers out-of-pocket just to make sure those students could participate fully. In addition, they were buying special teaching materials not provided by the school district. The teaching materials became part of the teacher’s personnel grade-specific “library” which they could use year after year.

Then in 20xx, a local non-profit school went out of business and chose us as another non-profit to distribute their assets to. The sum was substantial enough, we could finally do this program justice. That was the start of our Teacher Mini-Grant program. Our board budgeted $5,000 to fund grant applications of up to $500 each for literacy related teaching materials. Our first year, we awarded xx grants for approximately $xxxx.00 to xx teachers. The program began to grow as more and more teachers took advantage of the opportunity.

Unfortunately, in 2024, a local school district levy renewal was not approved by voters and the district lost teachers, among other things. As a result, some teachers were asked to teach other grades than they had been teaching. That meant that their grade-specific “libraries” were no longer useful.

Based on that, our board decided to increase our funding limit to $15,000 for the 24-25 school year to give the teachers a chance to upgrade their teaching materials. Teachers responded and we awarded xx grants for a total of $xxxx.00.

When club members deliver the grant materials to the teachers in their classrooms, the appreciation of the teachers is sincere, and the excitement of the kids is obvious.

This is just one of the many projects our club funds to fulfill our mission of supporting youth in the community of Yelm.